



Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

Lincoln County

County characteristics

- 883 sq. mi.
- 70% forest: 100,800 acres county forest
- Wisconsin River corridor, 729 lakes and 246 streams -132 containing trout
- 30,076 residents living in Lincoln County
- The renowned Prairie River prominently flows through the County.



State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing

- 11,300 acres of state land including wildlife and fisheries areas, state parks and natural areas
- 10,600 acres are open to hunting

Locate DNR properties at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_lands_mapping.html

DNR Staff serving you

- 1 Wildlife Biologist, 1 Wildlife Technician, 2 Conservation Wardens
- Office, 1110 East 10th Street, Merrill, WI 54452
- Staff also serves portions Langlade and Oneida

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Improve grasslands for wild turkeys by planting fruit-yielding trees and shrubs, in cooperation with local sporting clubs and the National Wild Turkey Federation
- Conduct fish population surveys on Silver, Halfmoon, Pesabic, Seven Island, Somo, Tug Lakes, Spirit River Flowage.
- Investigations into poaching of trophy wildlife including several bear, turkey, and over 20 bucks. Many of these animals were shot on private property without the owner's consent.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.
- Conduct stream population surveys on Prairie, N. Branch Prairie, Spirit, N. Fork Spirit, Big Rib Rivers, and several other unnamed creeks.
- Patrol over 100 fishable lakes, numerous quality river fisheries, and areas of public and private lands. Lincoln County wardens typically patrol more than 3,000 miles per month.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, as well as building and maintaining parking areas.



Activities continued...

- Ongoing trout habitat improvement in the Prairie River to improve size and increase numbers.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups.
- Monitor local wildlife populations of deer, bear, ducks, geese, grouse, woodcock, frogs, eagles and osprey.
- Wardens participate in youth fishing days sponsored by local Fishing Unlimited Chapters, lake associations, and others; they participate in statewide youth hunts as well as special local youth turkey and pheasant hunts sponsored by the Lincoln County Sports Club and organizations such as the National Wild Turkey Federation.
- Evaluate proposed projects for environmental impacts, work to keep habitats intact and functioning for fish and wildlife.

Lincoln County Conservation Snapshots

1 DNR Boat Launch
15 ALIS AGENTS Supported
30 Hotline Complaints
9 Deer, Turkey & Bear Registration
Stations
40 Stream access sites



Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary

- 2 lakes stocked with 790 large fingerling walleye and 470 muskellunge
- 7 streams and lakes stocked with 24,600 brook, brown, and rainbow trout (6-8")
- 67 wild turkeys released in 1999; birds are now abundant and are hunted county-wide

County Success Stories

- Wild turkey range expansion and flock growth.
- Cooperate with local sporting clubs to provide youth hunts for pheasant and turkey.
- Over 800 forest openings are maintained through a very cooperative and active forest habitat program on both the Lincoln County Forest and State Wildlife Areas.
- Wildlife staff provides input on county forest plans and helps develop wildlife projects on the Lincoln County Forest.

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
 - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

Want to Learn More? Go to dnr.wi.gov/invest

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